

Meter Reader Acts Fast As Gas Leak Discovered

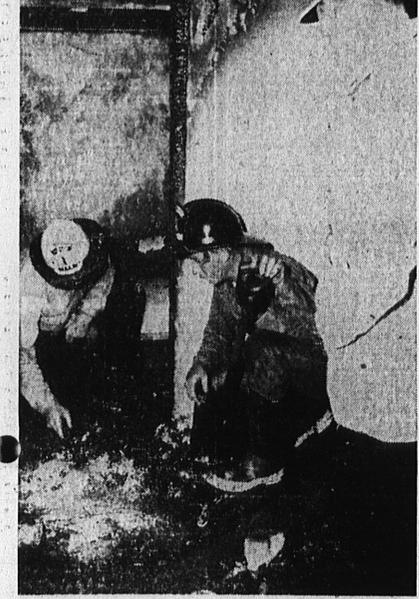
A possible neighborhood tragedy was averted Friday as an alert meter reader discovered a gas leak in a house at 22609 Leyte Dr.

The unidentified meter reader called Torrance firemen, who quickly rushed to the scene and stood by while their colleagues aired out the house.

Firemen said the house was completely filled with gas, which was seeping out into the surrounding air and could be detected from the street. The last occupants of the house had just moved out and apparently had not shut the gas entirely off. Making his final check, the meter reader discovered that the meter was "spinning like crazy," quickly shut off the gas, and called firemen. Had a spark ignited the gas, results could have been disastrous.

Acid Fumes Loose
Firefighters also were called to air out a house filled with acid fumes late Friday.

L. Berry, 4329 W. 173rd St., attempting to clean out a stopped bathroom sink drain,



(Herald Photo)
FIRE CLEAN-UP . . . Torrance firemen clean up the mess at the Lawrence Madden home, 4810 Cadison St., which followed a fire yesterday noon. The fire apparently was started in the closet by Luke Madden, 4, playing with a cigaret lighter. There was heavy damage in the closet and adjoining bedroom and smoke damage throughout the house.

City Ready

(Continued from Page 1)
to sweep through an area a day and collect all the trash, and the schedule calls for once-a-week calls on each of the 24,000 homes in the city.

"We are now picking up about 90 tons of material a day, and expect it to go up to 125 or more tons daily," Perkins said.

Regulations Recalled
The same regulations concerning trash are in effect for the added service: all tree limbs and cuttings should be cut in four-foot lengths and tied in bundles not more than a foot in diameter. Other materials should be put in containers whose loaded weight does not exceed 70 pounds.

"The men have to pick these containers of trash up and dump them in the back of the trucks," Perkins explained.

What do you do with your old incinerator?
General consensus is that you should plant it to ivy or something for a while to see how the burning ban works. If the whole thing is cancelled next year, you might want that backyard smokepot to stuff trash in again.

If you want to take the risk,
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poired two gallons of muriatic acid and a gallon of chlorine down the drain. The acid backed up into the shower drain and overflowed on the bathroom floor and into the hall. The house was filled with choking acid fumes.

Firemen cleaned up the mess, aired out the house, and advised the Berry family to see a doctor.

Fire in Closet
In other action, firemen quelled a fire at the Lawrence Madden home, 4810 Cadison St., yesterday noon, apparently started in a closet by four-year-old Luke Timothy Madden.

The blaze destroyed the clothes in the closet and charred contents of an adjoining bedroom. There was heavy smoke damage throughout the house.

Mrs. Madden told firemen her four-year-old son admitted to her that he had been playing with a cigaret lighter in the closet.

Firemen came to the rescue of five-year-old Stephen Allen Mercer, who had climbed on a neighbor's garage roof, but was

afraid to come down.

Boy Rescued
His mother, Mrs. M. A. Mercer, 5108 Beran St., said she was getting her boy ready for school when he climbed out the window and climbed atop the garage. His mother rescued him just as firemen arrived. The lad received a lecture from the firefighters.

A small davenport fire at the home of Harold Johnson, 1119 Kornblum, apparently was caused by a cigaret. Johnson told firemen that he put out a fire in the piece of furniture early Thursday and dragged it out to his patio. Apparently, he failed to get it completely extinguished and it burst in flame again about 10 a.m. Only the davenport was damaged.

A trash fire at 235th and Walnut Sts. got out of control early yesterday morning. Firemen fought the fire for about 40 minutes.

Arrangements will be announced from Stone and Myers Mortuary.

Defina Lucero
Graveside services at Holy Cross Cemetery were conducted yesterday for Defina Concepcion Lucero, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lucero, 20435 Kenwood Ave.

The infant died Sept. 26. Survivors include the parents; two brothers, Arthur and John Ralph; four sisters, Dolores, Gloria Lupe, Rosie and Romana, all of the Torrance address.

Emma Westenhagen
Funeral services for Mrs. Emma Pearl Westenhagen, 79, of Manhattan Beach, will be held tomorrow afternoon at the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel at 2 p.m. with Rev. Walter Stanton of the Central Evangelical Church officiating.

Mrs. Westenhagen was the mother of Walter West of the Torrance Fire Department and of Blanche Nagy, editor of the National Supply Co. employes magazine. She died Thursday. Burial will be in Green Hills Cemetery.

Obituaries

Vincent Grasso
Mass was celebrated yesterday at the Church of Nativity for Vincent Grasso, 21322 Moneta Ave., who died Sept. 25.

Born March 13, 1887 in Italy, he is survived by his wife, Sofie Grasso; four children, Carmen Grasso, Concetta DeLuca, Sophie Pat Rory and Jene Toombs; eight grandchildren.

Rosary was at Stone and Myers Chapel with interment in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Ethel May Vincent
Funeral services are pending for Mrs. Ethel May Vincent, a resident of 1021 Cravens Ave. for the past 24 years. Mrs. Vincent, who was 56, died here Friday.

She is survived by her husband, Emile; a son, J. S. Black Jr.; and a daughter, Eileen Rutledge, all of Torrance. A sister, Josephine Black also lives here, and another sister, Helen Hador, in West Virginia. Seven grandchildren also survive Mrs. Vincent.

Chamber Denies Charge Of Lomita Interference

Refuting charges of interference in the Lomita incorporation move, Torrance Chamber of Commerce officials this week defended proposed investigation of the "Lakewood Plan" of providing city services by contract.

Jack Horner, retained by proponents of incorporation in

against any attempt by Torrance to annex Lomita.

"Whether to incorporate or not, is squarely up to the residents of Lomita and we have positively no desire to become involved in the issue," he said. Thompson said his group, in cooperation with the Redondo Beach Chamber, called the luncheon meeting Oct. 1 only Lomita, last week charged that the Chamber's investigation of the possible inequities of the "Lakewood Plan" was a "smokescreen" against the incorporation move.

Torrance C of C president, A. E. Thompson counter-

manded with a statement that his organization is "strongly resolved not to interfere in Lomita politics."

Opposes Annexation
He further added that the group has been publicly on record for many months after much expression of unrest among city and chamber officials of South Bay cities for the past 18 months.

South Bay officials believe the Lakewood Plan, which provides county-furnished services to cities on a contract basis, is not "paying its way" with other incorporated cities shouldering the tax burden.

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All Prices in this Ad effective Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday -- Sept. 30; Oct. 1st, 2nd

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